

## MICROBIAL IDENTIFICATION DATABASES

### Abstract

Methods of compensating for drift in fingerprint spectra of microorganisms  
5 caused by changes in their environment are disclosed. These methods of compensating  
for drift permit identification of microorganisms from their fingerprint spectra  
regardless of the environment from which the microorganisms are obtained.  
Furthermore, the disclosed methods may be used to construct coherent databases of  
fingerprint spectra that may be expanded even though the standard database conditions  
10 are no longer experimentally achievable. In particular embodiments, methods of  
compensating for drift in pyrolysis mass spectra, constructing coherent pyrolysis mass  
spectral databases, and identifying bacteria from their pyrolysis mass spectra are  
disclosed.

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